

10th Annual Summer Public Health Videoconference Focuses on Minority Health

By Joe Kotsch
Perinatal Health Consultant

Minority health was the focus of the 10th Annual Summer Public Health Videoconference, June 21-24. It was sponsored by the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

KDHE Employees participated in this four-day videoconference series along with more than 100 other sites across the United States. Each day of the videoconference featured experts and panelists from a variety of disciplines and affiliations to discuss health disparities and the state of minority health.

On day one of the program, the discussion focus was congressional action on health disparities and minority health. The panelist included congressional caucus members representative of the U.S. Virgin Islands (Black Caucus), California's 32nd Congressional District (Hispanic Caucus), and Guam (Asian Pacific American Caucus). Perspectives on this issue were given from public health experts who represented areas of public health research, family and community medicine, health behavior, and health education. Additionally, during this discussion, the facilitator outlined the general framework for the entire videoconference while participants gave clear definitions of how health disparities have come about and its relevance to the nation.

Congressional Minority Caucus Panel



From left to right: Hon. Frank Pallone, Hon. Donna Christensen, Hon. Hilda Solis and Hon. Madeleine Bordallo.

On the remaining days of the videoconference, a variety of expert speakers in the field of health disparities presented topics dealing with the origins of health disparities and a variety of information from the field of health disparities research. Some of the presentations were entitled: *Health Disparities: Why We Need New Approaches* as presented by Bill Jenkins, Ph.D, M.P.H., Associate Director, Research Center on Health Disparities, Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA; *Is Health Care Entitlement a Solution to the Problem of Health Disparities for American*

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Indians/Alaska Natives? Jennie R. Joe, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.A. Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine, and Director, Native American Research and Training Center, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ; *The Latino Mortality Paradox Revisited: Is Acculturation Bad for Your Health?* Ana F. Abraido-Lanza, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Department of Sociomedical Sciences, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, New York, NY.

These and all of the other topics were presented in a forthright and honest manner with interesting and lively question and answer periods from conferees and video sites across the country. Also, the participants at the KDHE site discussed the topics presented considering the diversity of Kansas's population within an atmosphere conducive to sharing concerns and possible solutions regarding the issue of health disparities.

For more information on this videoconference go to: www.minority.unc.edu

In Kansas, for issues concerning minority health, you may contact Bridgitt L. Mitchell, M.A. Assistant to the Secretary, Minority Health Liaison, Kansas Department of Health and Environment at: 785-296-0461; bmitchell@kdhe.state.ks.us.